

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

August 8, 1947

President Heber Meeks
Southern States Mission
485 North Avenue N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear President Meeks:

We are in receipt of your very thorough-going report on your trip to Cuba and the opening of a mission there. This report will receive very careful consideration in connection with the reaching of a conclusion on the problems involved in opening a mission.

We note that you seem to attach considerable importance to a communication sent to you by Dr. Lowry Nelson, that communication bearing date of June 26, 1947, which apparently was in response to a letter from you to Dr. Nelson under date of June 20, a copy of which was sent to us by Dr. Nelson.

For your information we quote below a letter which we sent to Dr. Lowry Nelson covering some of the more important parts of his letter which he wrote to you. We wish to reiterate to you that the Church cannot view with any tolerance or symptom of approval this idea of the intermarriage of whites and blacks, and therefore all activities which would tend either directly or indirectly to encourage such intermarriages must be carefully avoided by the Church. The letter to Brother Nelson reads as follows:

"As you have been advised, your letter of June 26 was received in due course, and likewise we now have a copy of your letter to President Meeks. We have carefully considered their contents, and are glad to advise you as follows:

"We might make this initial remark: the social side of the Restored Gospel is only an incident of it; it is not the end thereof.

"The basic element of your ideas and concepts seems to be that all God's children stand in equal positions before Him in all things.

"Your knowledge of the Gospel will indicate to you that this is contrary to the very fundamentals of God's dealings with Israel dating from the time of His promise to Abraham regarding Abraham's seed and their position vis-a-vis God Himself. Indeed, some of God's children were assigned to superior positions before the world was formed. We are aware that some Higher Critics do not accept this, but the Church does.

"Your position seems to lose sight of the revelations of the Lord touching the preexistence of our spirits, the rebellion in heaven, and the doctrines that our birth into this life and the advantages under which we may be born, have a relationship in the life heretofore.

"From the days of the Prophet Joseph even until now, it has been the doctrine of the Church, never questioned by any of the Church leaders, that the Negroes are not entitled to the full blessings of the Gospel.

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President Heber Meeks
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"Furthermore, your ideas, as we understand them, appear to contemplate the intermarriage of the Negro and White races, a concept which has heretofore been most repugnant to most normal-minded people from the ancient patriarchs till now. God's rule for Israel, His Chosen People, has been endogamous. Modern Israel has been similarly directed.

"We are not unmindful of the fact that there is a growing tendency, particularly among some educators, as it manifests itself in this area, toward the breaking down of race barriers in the matter of intermarriage between whites and blacks, but it does not have the sanction of the Church and is contrary to Church doctrine."

Again thanking you for the care with which you have prepared this report, we are

Faithfully yours,

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

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By

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